

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 COME-00 INT-08 XMB-07 FTC-01

DRC-01 /183 W

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R 211630Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4951

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: SUBJECTS MOBUTU MIGHT RAISE IF HE MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

1. GIVEN WHAT MOBUTU CONSIDERS TO BE HIS FRIENDLY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DATING FROM LATTER'S VISIT TO ZAIRE IN 1967 AND CLOSE TIES BETWEEN ZAIRE AND US WHICH BEGAN DURING DARK DAYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE WE DO NOT FORSEE ANY MAJOR BILATERAL PROBLEMS. MOBUTU'S MAIN PURPOSE IN SEEKING MEETING IS TO COMPARE NOTES WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, WHOM HE RESPECTS AND ADMIRES, AND WHOM HE CONSIDERS TO BE A PERSONAL FRIEND.

2. WE BELIEVE MOBUTU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S IMPRESSIONS AS THE RESULT OF HIS TRIPS TO MOSCOW AND PEKING AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. MOBUTU WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN COMPARING NOTES ON CHINA IN THE LIGHT OF HIS OWN VISIT TO THE PRC IN JANUARY. CONCERNING ZAIRE'S POLICY, WE EXPECT MOBUTU WOULD MAKE OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ZAIRE'S "OPEN DOOR" POLICY AND BRAND OF NON-ALIGNMENT IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE US.

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B. MOBUTU'S CAMPAIGN OF "AUTHENTIC NATIONALISM" IS DESIGNED

TO INSTILL SENSE OF BLACK PRIDE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE
NECESSARY FOR NATIONS BUILDING AND IS NOT XENOPHOBIC OR
ANTI-WHITE.

C. MOBUTU WOULD WISH TO GIVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE
ALGIERS NONALIGNED CONFERENCE AND RECOUNT WHAT HE CONSIDERS
TO BE HIS COMMENDABLE EFFORTS TO KEEP IT FROM BEING
TURNED INTO AN EXCLUSIVELY ANTI-US/WEST SHOW.

D. MOBUTU MAY REFER TO HIS EFFECTIVE DIPLOMACY IN
CENTRAL AFRICA TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RWANDA
AND BURUNDI AND BETWEEN BURUNDI AND TANZANIA.

E. MOBUTU WOULD PROBABLY ALSO TOUCH ON THE PROBLEMS OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA (PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM, RHODESIA, NAMIBIA,
APARTHEID) SINCE THIS WILL BE A MAJOR THEME OF HIS UNGA
ADDRESS AND ASK WHAT THE WEST CAN DO TO SPEED UP PROGRESS.

3. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, WE EXPECT MOBUTU WOULD PRINCIPALLY
STRESS THE IMPORTANCE HE CONTINUES TO PLACE ON US PRIVATE
INVESTMENT.

4. MILITARILY, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR HIM TO REQUEST
SALE OF EITHER RECENT MODEL A-4M (SKYHAWK) OR THE F-5E
(FREEDOM FIGHTER) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO MIRAGES. AS FOR
FINANCING, TO THE EXTENT FMS CREDIT CANNOT BE FOUND, THE
OVERALL FINANCING MIGHT BE A BLEND OF FMS GUARANTEE AND
STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL FINANCING AS IN LAST C-130 ORDER.

5. ZAIRIAN MILITARY ARE ALSO EXPLORING POSSIBLE PURCHASE
OF HELICOPTERS BUT WE DOUBT MOBUTU WOULD RAISE THIS
SUBJECT.

6. MOBUTU MIGHT WELL MENTION HIS SATISFACTION AT US
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II OF
THE INGA DAM AND THE WORLD' LONGEST DIRECT-CURRENT
TRANSMISSION LINE FROM INGA TO SHABA. AT PRESENT, THE
ONLY PROBLEMS WITH THESE IMPORTANT PROJECTS ARISE FROM
INFLATION OF PRICES AND SOARING INTEREST RATES BUT US IS
LESS AFFLICTED THESE REGARDS THAN WOULD BE FOREIGN COMPETITION.
WE EXPECT EXIM FINANCING WILL SHORTLY BE ARRANGED NOT ONLY
FOR THESE PROJECTS BUT FOR THE LARGE NEW COPPER MINING
AND SMELTING VENTURE IN WHICH STANDARD OIL OF INDIANA IS
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PARTICIPATING IN SHABA. VANCE

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